

## Hunters set to find pheasants

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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Pheasant and quail season will start with a bang bright and early Saturday morning, with hunters from around the state and region heading out to see how many birds they can bag.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks says pheasant numbers are up for northwest Kansas, with the exception of the far corner of the state, around Cheyenne County.

With several bird count surveys finished, Jim Pitman, small game coordinator with the department, said the pheasant population is on an upward trend. Statewide, he said, the pheasant population trend is up from 10 years or so ago.

Mr. Pitman said even the quail numbers are looking better. Those in the northwest part of the state are still fairly low compared to the east, he said, but there are more quail in this part of the state than there were last year.

The department says it expects a strong season opening on Saturday.

With the word out that pheasant numbers are up, the number of hunters flocking here might be up, too, he said.

At the LandMark Inn, owner Gary Anderson said his rooms are full for the weekend. He added that the inn has had reservations for quite a while. Mr. Anderson said they are still getting phone calls, more than they have in the past years. Hunters are still looking for rooms in Oberlin, he said.

At the Frontier Motel, the 28 rooms are full. Sharyn Bodfield said she's been full since last year's season. She added that she has had lots of phone calls from people looking for rooms.

The local sporting goods store, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, plans to be open special hours for the weekend, said co-owner Bob Woolsey. The store will be open from 9 a.m. to midnight Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Mr. Woolsey said they have received phone calls from hunters all over asking about the conditions (See HUNTERS on Page 8A)

## Yearly banquet draws hunters from wide area

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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There's still time to get a seat for the annual opening-weekend hunters' banquet given by the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever, which starts at 5 p.m. Friday at The Gateway.

In fact, no reservation is needed for the banquet, and dinner won't be served until around 6:45 p.m. The banquet will be held in the arena at The Gateway, southwest of the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 in Oberlin.

The dinner will cost \$25 a person, said Rick Doeden, who is helping organize the banquet, and that can be paid at the door.

Hunting season starts Saturday morning, and the dinner is always the night before.

Guests will have a chance to join

Pheasants Forever for \$30, Mr. Doeden said, and that, too, can be paid at the door. The membership fee includes a one-year subscription to the *Pheasants Forever Journal of Upland Conservation*. Kids 16 and under who attend the banquet will get a free membership to the Ringneck group.

Mr. Doeden said The Gateway staff will make and serve a prime rib dinner this year.

Throughout the evening, the group will be giving away Pheasants Forever and other outdoor items. There will also be the chance to win items through raffles and a live auction.

One of the raffles, he said, will be a four-gun raffle, with the top gun in the package being a Benelli Montefeltro 12-gauge semiautomatic. (See BANQUET on Page 8A)



**SELDEN AREA FARMER** Jeff Wessel (right) and Hi-Plains Co-op grain technician Robert Hollars examined some milo Wessel was unloading onto a growing, multi-layered pile (below) west of the Hi-Plains elevator on U.S. 83 there. Wessel said his yields were good, running around

100 bushels an acre, but the grain was immature and the quality probably wasn't too good. He said it had been too cool in August for the milo to mature before an early freeze this fall. Both men live near Dresden.

— Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes

## Harvest finally starts

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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Fields in Decatur County are starting to dry up, letting area farmers get in to pick corn and harvest milo.

For some, it may seem like the longest fall harvest ever, with rains or snow just about every week leaving the fields too muddy and the crops too wet to harvest.

With temperatures in the 70s over the last week, however, and no moisture, farmers have been able to get out into their fields to get their crops in.

Dalene Horton, grain accountant at the Decatur Co-op, said they have been taking a little bit of grain off and on, but in the middle of last week, things started to pick up. Since then, she said, the elevators have gotten busier each day.

Ms. Horton said she doesn't have any figures yet for the fall harvest, but it seems they have received a little more milo than corn, since the corn is still a little wet to pick.



All of the co-op's locations are accepting fall grain, she said, except Ludell, which is still full from this year's wheat harvest.

It's a little early in the harvest, which has been spotty over the past month or so, to say if people are going to sell or store it. Some farmers contracted grain earlier, said Ms. Horton, so they are getting that in. Others will wait and see what happens with the prices.

For the most part, it seems that grain is coming in from all over the county, she said, not just a particular area that might be dryer.

The elevator, she said, has been staying open until 7 to 8 p.m., giving farmers time to get their grain dumped.

At Hansen Mueller, Janice O'Hare said so far they have taken in 300,000 bushels of grain since harvest started on Sept. 22.

Since then, harvest has been sporadic, with a few loads in October and then a big gap. Over the weekend, that changed.

Things have picked up, she said, and the elevator is staying open late.

Mrs. O'Hare said they are get-

ting grain from all over the area as well. Harvest from the northern part of the county is going to the elevator in Cedar Bluffs, she said.

There is some ground that's still too wet to harvest, she added, but so far the crops that have come in have been good.

She said they are mostly getting corn and haven't received anything over 17 percent moisture.

Hansen Mueller is taking milo, too, said Mrs. O'Hare. It's just that so far people have brought in more corn.

## College leader visits area

By KEVIN BOTTRELL  
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University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little came to Colby last Monday for lunch with area alumni, a quick visit to Colby Community College and a sit down with the *Colby Free Press*.

Gray-Little was named chancellor Aug. 15, coming to Lawrence from the University of North Carolina, where she was provost. The chancellor oversees all KU campuses and programs around the state. In addition to the main campus in Lawrence, these include Medical Centers in Kansas City and Wichita, the Edwards Campus in Johnson County, the research center at Parsons State Hospital and the Law Enforcement Training Center in Reno County.

"Research universities have a lot in common," she said, "even some of the problems."

One of the main differences in Kansas, she said, is that once out of Lawrence, the terrain is much different than North Carolina, with few or no trees. Another difference is the big interest in politics among local people here.

"I don't think I've ever met so



**TALKING ABOUT STUDENTS** and recruiting, Rhonda May of Oberlin (left) explained her son's experiences to University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little during an alumni luncheon in Colby last week. Lawyer and alum Jeff Mason of Goodland and Dale Seufferling, president of the KU Endowment, listened. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

many people who are politicians or have been politicians," she said. "Interest in politics is very much an everyday thing."

Since being named chancellor, Gray-Little has been out on several trips around the state. In Colby,

she spoke at an alumni lunch and met with local officials, including college President Lynn Kreider. Alums from Oberlin at the luncheon included Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, and Councilwoman Rhonda May, along with her

husband, Dan Nedland.

In talking to people around the state, Gray-Little said, she finds different groups are looking for different things from the university. Community college presidents are (See COLLEGE on Page 8A)

## Tickets available for theater opening

A limited number of tickets for opening night at Oberlin's new Sunflower Cinema are on sale now.

Board member Duane Dorshorst said the new theater will open Friday, Nov. 27, after the Parade of Lights and a visit from Santa Claus.

The board has requested Disney's Digital 3D "A Christmas Carol" for the opening weekend, he said.

Tickets for opening night are \$20, said Mr. Dorshorst. That will include the cost of the movie, a soda or water, a medium popcorn and a treat bag.

There are only 100 tickets for

sale, he said, and tickets for opening night will be presold only. No tickets will be sold at the door that night.

Anyone who wants to buy a ticket can contact a cinema board member, including Mr. Dorshorst, Bev Reiter, Brian Simonsson, Kala Bose, Susan May and Jan Badsky.

The movie, said Mr. Dorshorst, will also show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29.

Movies will cost \$5 for all ages during the regular show time, he said, or \$6 for 3D movies.

## Annual business tour planned for Sunday

Anyone who wants to attend the Oberlin Business Alliance's annual Business-to-Business tour Sunday still has time to sign up.

The tour starts at 4 p.m. at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Main Street. From there, the group will walk through the downtown businesses that have signed up to be on the tour, and maybe drive to a few

stops out on the highway.

The tour will end back at the center for soup and snacks for \$5.

The idea is that people, especially store employees and business owners, will get an idea of what Oberlin merchants have to offer.

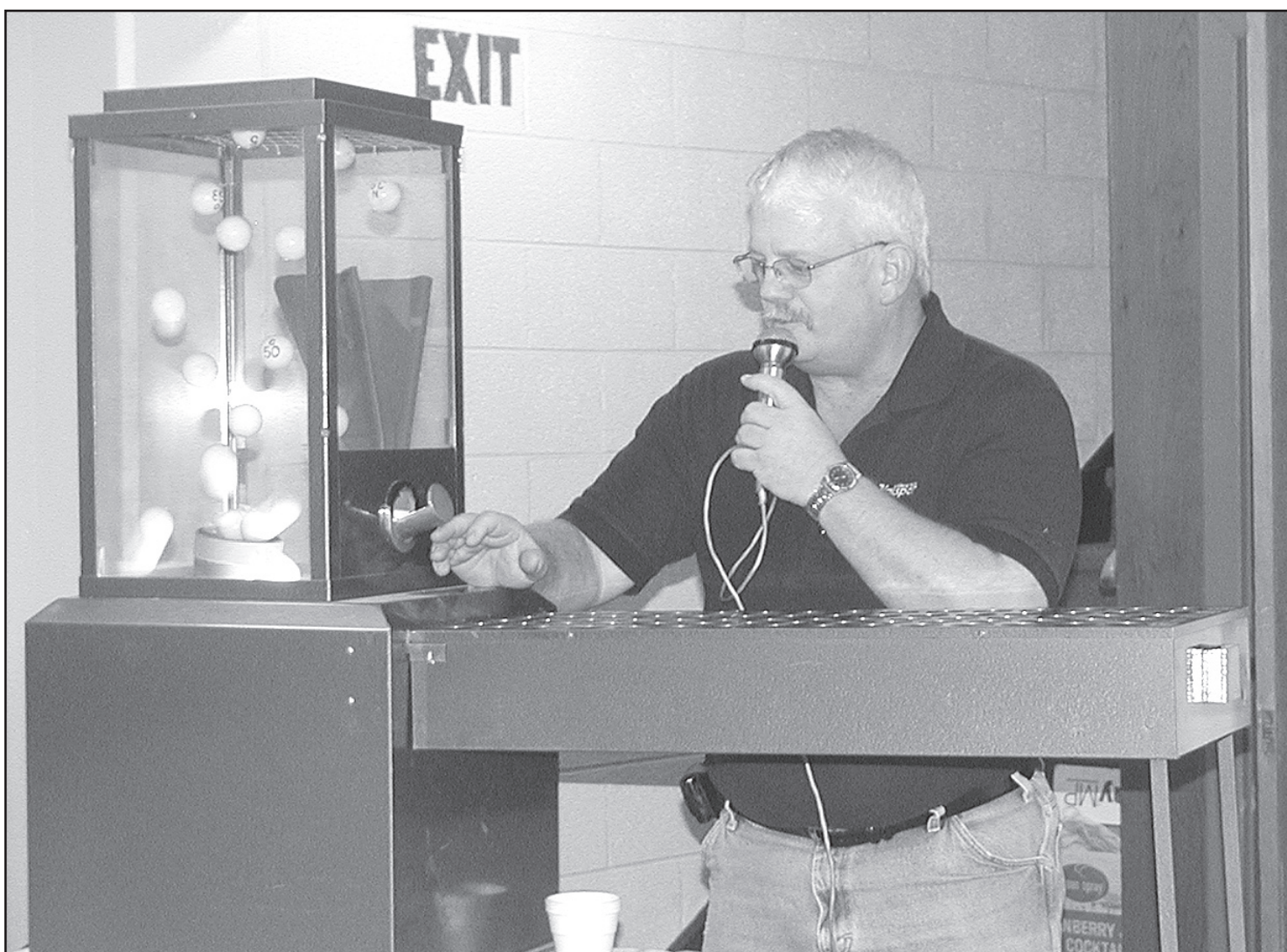
For information, call the Chamber office at 475-3441.

# \*College leader visits Colby, offers her help

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 looking for a strong partnership with KU, which is often the destination for their graduating sophomores.  
 "That transition needs communication back and forth," she said.  
 Alumni in rural areas, she said, are always delighted to see the university's administrators in their town. They often put an emphasis on recruiting and programs to bring the KU graduates back to their small towns after college. Retaining young people in their hometowns is an issue all across the state, she said.  
 "One of the ways that it gets expressed is in ambivalence about allowing students to leave," she said.  
 Community colleges and programs such as the Medical School often take applicants who already have strong roots in their home towns and plan to go back when they graduate, she said. Northwest Kansas has students in the medical program, she said.

"There is a clear recognition that providing health care professionals to the state is a high priority," she said. "Our medical centers are heavily dependent on KU grads."  
 Another issue on Gray-Little's plate is state budget cuts. The state has cut its contribution to higher education by 12 percent and more cuts may be in store next year.  
 "It's part of everyday discussion," she said. "It's a frustrating situation."  
 Gray-Little said the university has eliminated some programs, reduced faculty recruiting and made other small cuts to try and combat the shortfall. The university is looking at establishing a furlough policy for professors if need be, she said. And programs might have to reduce the number of students to maintain required student-teacher ratios.  
 However, she said, there are some more encouraging points. Enrollment is up and, for all their concerns, the alumni and parents she's talked to have said they believe the student

## 'And under the I — 29'



# \*Hunters prepare to hit the fields

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 this year. It was an excellent year for moisture and there was good hatch of birds this spring, he said, and the numbers are as good or better than last year.  
 With a lot of people coming into town for opening weekend, he said, they stay open late and open up early for the customers. People can come shop after the Pheasants Forever banquet on Friday or before breakfast on Saturday.  
 Hunters can buy licenses at the store for \$20.50 for residents or \$72.50 for nonresidents, Mr. Woolsey said.

There will be several events and meals at area churches including a dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Norcat Educational Building, sponsored by the Norcat United Methodist Church; a hunter's breakfast at the Jennings Masonic Hall from 6 to 9 a.m. on Saturday and a hunter's supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.  
 The bird season runs from Saturday to Sunday, Jan. 31. Hunters are allowed to bag four cocks a day during the regular season and eight quail.

# \*Banquet offers dinner, auction

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 Items to be auctioned off include a mystery gun, the Pheasants Forever print of the year and several other outdoor items.  
 The chapter leases the farm ground at Sappa Park. Work recently started on a wetlands, or pond and marsh area, the group is building near the shelter house. At the park, members have also helped take down fence, plant trees, corn,

pumpkins and grasses, feed and cover crops, as habitat for birds and animals.  
 Mr. Doeden said in the past year, they gave \$4,000 for habitat and walk-in hunting programs.  
 Everyone interested in conservation or a good meal is invited to the banquet, he said; it isn't limited to hunters.

# Longest feather wins

Bird hunters have the chance to win \$100 in gift certificates for turning in the longest pheasant tail feather of the season.  
 Feathers can be turned in to Dale's Fish 'N' Fun from Saturday to

Monday, Nov. 23. The person who brings in the longest tail feather will win two \$50 gift certificates, one from Dale's and one from the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.



# Knights serve up food, fun

AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH on Sunday, Joe Stanley (above) called numbers for turkey bingo organized by the Knights of Columbus. Drew Juenemann (left) ate a big piece of chocolate cake while he waited for his numbers to be called.  
 — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

# Theme picked for Parade of Lights

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance picked "Christmas Country Style" as the theme for the annual Parade of Lights on opening night of the Christmas season.  
 At a meeting last Wednesday, the members voted on five suggestions from the students at the grade school. "Christmas Country Style" came from Judy Elwood's third-grade class.  
 The other suggestions were "Lights! Floats! Santa!" from Sandy Ketterl's fifth grade, "Santa's Won-

derful World" from Sherri Ruf's fourth grade, "Holly Jolly Santa" from Carol Wasson's third grade and "Lightly Fallen Snowflakes" from Carol Dixon's sixth grade.  
 The winning class will receive a treat from the alliance.  
 The parade will start at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 27, with staging at 6 p.m. in the parking lot at the Decatur Co-op.  
 After leading the parade, Santa Claus will visit with kids and their parents.


In the past, Santa has always met with kids on the first floor of the courthouse. However, this year, Kimberly Davis, with *The Oberlin Herald*, said maybe Santa could be in the new Golden Age Building instead, since there is more room and the first floor of the courthouse gets crowded.  
 Before the parade, the Aquarius Club plans to have a soup supper at the new center.  
 Anyone who wants to enter a float in the parade, said Gary Walter,

with The Bank, should call him at 475-3817 or the Chamber office at 475-3441.  
 If kids don't get a chance to see Santa that evening, members decided, he will be back in town on Saturday, Dec. 19.  
*The Oberlin Herald* will hold its "Christmas on Us" drawing at the gazebo in Centennial Park at 11 a.m. on that day. The drawing will be followed by an Oberlin Business Alliance soup lunch at the senior center and then Santa Claus.

# Welcome Hunters

**HERNDON VFW POST 1368**  
**ANNUAL LAMB FRY**  
 Saturday, November 14,  
 6 p.m. to 12 midnight,  
 at the Herndon Post Home  
 Herndon, Kansas

**NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL PHEASANT SUPPER**  
 Saturday, November 14, 2009  
 At Norcat Educational Building  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

 **Adults -- \$7.00**  
**Children -- \$3.00**  
 Ages 6 to 12  
 Age 5 and under Free

Turkey and Dressing; Ham Loaf;  
 Potatoes and Gravy  
 Vegetables; Salads and Desserts

Norton County's  
 Twenty-First Annual  
**Genealogical Society's**  
**Arts & Craft Fair**  
**Saturday, November 14**  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**Eisenhower Grade School**  
 Eisenhower Drive  
 Three (3) Blocks West of the Armory  
 Norton, Kansas  
 — Lunch Stand Available —  
**CRAFTS IN GYM AND CAFETERIA**

Not Responsible for Accidents,  
 Lost or Stolen Items



**ALL AMERICAN FOOD™**  
**Sweets and Treats**

**Thank you** to all our customers  
 We appreciate your business  
 We are here to serve you  
 during hunting season  
 Drive thru window is now reopened.  
 Check out our \$1.00 off daily specials.



203 W. Frontier Parkway  
 Oberlin, Kansas 67749

(785) 475-2096

D&M Service (Norcat) and D&M Sinclair (Oberlin)